

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – March 31, 2015
LWVO Lobbyist Report
Hydraulic-Fracturing/Fracking
(LWVUS Positions on Natural Resources and Right to Know)
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Currently Advocacy Focus Issues

- First responders have to deal with accidents at drilling operations. They have a right to know what chemicals are present there. Currently drillers provide the information to a state bureaucracy, which decides when and what to deliver to first responders. Our approach is described in the hand-out on the reverse side. Although the state is determined to keep the present system, LWVO will continue advocating for the first responders. Preservation of the current procedure is buried in the budget.
- Penalties for illegal dumping of fracking waste should be increased. LWVO came close to getting this last year and hope for success this year.
- Currently, wells can be drilled too close to homes and water supplies. These close setback distances are not required when horizontal drilling is used. LWVO has continually argued that tiny pockets of gas and oil are dispersed over a huge area and it matters less exactly where the well is drilled. LWV of Dallas TX spearheaded successful drive for a municipal ordinance, which places setbacks ten times further than those allowed in Ohio. We are using their ordinance as a model.

League of Women Voters Approach to Gas and Oil Production

Our advocacy is based on the following propositions:

- Gas and oil production should be carried out with the minimum amount of environmental damage. Clean water and clean air are important to us.
- Gas and oil production should be carried out with the maximum protection of public health and safety.
- All information about chemicals used in the process should be readily available to the public. We value the citizens' right to know.

OHIO'S METHOD OF TRANSFER OF CHEMICAL INFORMATION
FROM OIL/GAS COMPANIES TO FIRST RESPONDERS
IS A DANGEROUS EXAMPLE OF BAD MANAGEMENT*

1. Current procedure places a middle man between first responders and the chemical information that they need to respond to emergencies.
2. It doesn't matter which middle man – the Division of Natural Resources or the Ohio EPA – the problem is the same.

Recommendation:

Before drilling starts, send all chemical information on each well directly to the first responders responsible for that location. They urgently need this information to respond to an accident. Use the state agency (ODNR or OEPA) as a backup.

